

It is difficult to do justice to the myriad of accomplishments of the University of Utah's faculty and alumni in this brief statement.

Suffice it to say that, after 150 years, the University of Utah still draws on the courageous and adventurous spirit of Utah's pioneers. The achievements and ideas of the faculty and graduates have multiplied across the geographic and academic frontiers of our country. The University's proud heritage and traditions have established its values and lighted the path; but, without a doubt, the trail is still being blazed.

I might add that as a young boy living in Pittsburgh, PA, wanting to support anything from Utah, I can remember the great University of Utah championship basketball teams with Arnie Ferrin, Vern Gardner, Wat Misaka, and others who were terrific athletes who made the University of Utah a household name in basketball during those years. Of course, they have been an inspiration to me ever since. In fact, it has been a thrill for me to meet some of those people, and especially become a friend of the great Arnie Ferrin who was the University of Utah's great All American during those years and later played professional basketball as well.

Again, my congratulations to the students, alumni, faculty, and administrators of the University of Utah on reaching this significant milestone. It is a great university. I support it very strongly, and I think everyone in Utah does as well. I am grateful to be able to make this statement on its behalf.

I yield the floor.

THE Y2K COMMITTEE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, as I said, I have two items to commemorate. That is the first one, an item of some nostalgia looking forward. The second one actually is tomorrow, but I will take advantage of being here now to talk about something that comes to an end tomorrow.

The Presiding Officer was intimately involved, as he served as a member of the Senate's Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem, a committee that officially goes out of existence tomorrow. There were many who said, when the committee was formed: There is nothing so permanent as a temporary government program. You will find an excuse somehow, some way, to keep this committee alive for years.

It is with some pride I point out that we are not doing that. The committee was organized to deal with the year 2000 technology problem. The committee dealt with the problem. The committee was scheduled to go out of existence on February 29, when presumably the problem would be behind us. The problem is behind us, and the committee will disband as of tomorrow.

I pay tribute to the vice chairman of the committee, CHRISTOPHER DODD, the Senator from Connecticut. As chair-

man of the committee, I could not ask for a better partner. I could not ask for a more cooperative or dedicated partner in working on this particular problem. We acknowledge the other members of the committee, starting with the distinguished occupant of the Chair, Senator KYL from Arizona; Senator MOYNIHAN from New York; Senator SMITH from Oregon; Senator EDWARDS from North Carolina, who was preceded on the committee by Senator BINGAMAN from New Mexico; Senator LUGAR from Indiana, who was preceded on the committee by the junior Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS; and then, of course, the two ex officio members of the committee who attended committee hearings, paid attention to the committee activities, and contributed significantly to it, that is, the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator STEVENS and Senator BYRD.

There are many people who say: Well, you really didn't have a problem, did you? You formed this committee, and then, look, nothing happened with respect to Y2K.

It reminds me a little of the story attributed to Bob Hope, who said: You know, I really don't appreciate the way the Army treats me when I go out on these USO tours over the holidays. At Christmas, I go all around the world to put on shows for the GIs. They tell me I am going into dangerous parts of the world, so they use me as a pin cushion; they fill me full of shots before I go. It is a complete waste of time because I have never gotten sick once in any of these places.

I think that can be said to a certain extent with respect to the Y2K problem. Many people are saying: Gee, you wasted all our time and money. Look, nothing happened.

The record is fairly clear that had we, as a Nation, not focused on this issue and dealt with it, we would have had very significant problems.

When the committee was formed, I set one goal, among others, which I believe we very much met and I feel very proud about having achieved. As we looked out over the Nation and, indeed, the world with respect to the Y2K problem, the one thing that was clear was that no one knew the extent of the problem. No one knew how it was going to play out, and there was no place one could go to get that information. So I challenged the staff as well as the members of the committee.

I said: If we do nothing else in this committee, we will become the repository of accurate information about Y2K. All over the world, people will know that if they want to find the best source of where things are with respect to Y2K, they will want to come to the Senate Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem.

I believe we met that challenge. I believe by the last few months of Y2K, it was recognized virtually around the world that the Senate reports on Y2K were the most authoritative, the most

complete, and ultimately the most dependable.

A lot of people don't realize we were saying in those last few months: There will not be a Y2K problem in the United States. I used to say that in speeches, and I would have people challenge me: How can you say that? Sometimes they would quote my own earlier speeches back to me because early on I was raising the alarm and predicting significant problems. I was predicting those problems on the basis of the information then available. But as the committee fulfilled its function and became the repository of accurate information, committee spokesmen and women would stand and say again and again: We are probably not going to have any serious problems in the United States.

Then people said to us: Well, why did you miss it overseas? There weren't serious problems overseas?

I have two observations on that. First, we did not have the same degree of accurate information about situations overseas that we had in the United States. We were unable to reach the same level in dealing with information that came from outside the country as we did from information within the country. Second, we had more problems overseas than the press has reported. There were many people who were simply embarrassed about their Y2K problem and didn't talk about it. Indeed, we had some examples before the committee of problems that did exist and were later denied simply because of the embarrassment people would feel if they admitted they had had difficulties.

The ultimate question is: Was it worth it? Did we, in fact, make a contribution worth the amount of money we spent to staff this committee? I say without any hesitation, yes, it was very much worth it. We are seeing benefits over and above the contribution the committee made to alleviating the problem.

John Hamre, Deputy Secretary of Defense, has publicly stated: If it were not for the process we went through to deal with Y2K in the Defense Department, we would have had serious Y2K problems and we would not have the information we now have.

In responding to the pressure from Y2K, the Defense Department, for the first time in its history, now has an inventory of all of their computer systems together with a ranking as to which of those systems are mission critical and which are not. One might think in a straight management assignment the Defense Department would have that information anyway. They did not have it before we caused them, in an effort to respond to the inquiries from the committee, to go through the process of gathering it.

Alan Greenspan has been quoted as saying that in American industry at large, the effect of the Y2K remediation activity has caused American business men and women to understand

their vulnerability and dependability on computers in a way they never understood before and that the investment of bringing everything up to the highest possible level is an investment that will pay significant financial dividends for the economy in the years ahead.

So as I look back on those activities and those accomplishments, I express satisfaction for the work of the committee, a degree of satisfaction for whatever contribution I may have been able to make as its chairman but ultimately enormous gratitude to the members of the committee and to the members of the staff.

When Senator DODD and I were appointed, respectively, as vice chairman and chairman of this group, we made the determination we would not have a partisan staff. While it was partisan in the formal sense that there was a minority director and so on, it was housed in the same facility; the members of the staff were majority or minority and worked together on a daily basis. We had a number of detailees from a variety of agencies who came to us and brought a level of professional expertise we could never have achieved in any other way. We maintained throughout the entire exercise a determination to get the job done that was not interfered with by any attempt at staff bickering or posturing for any partisan purposes.

I pay tribute to Senator DODD for his willingness to join me and, indeed, for his leadership in pushing me in that direction, and to the people whom he appointed as minority members of the staff. I also pay tribute to the administration and John Koskinen, who held the position on behalf of the President. There, also, there was no partisanship and no posturing for any partisan advantage.

For the sake of the record, I want to read into the RECORD the names of the staffers who helped us with this accomplishment. They are: Robert Cresanti, staff director. Before being staff director, he worked with me on the Banking Committee to raise the initial alarm with respect to this possibility. T.M. Wilke Green, appointed by Senator DODD as minority staff director; John B. Stephenson, who came from the GAO, the deputy staff director. Then we had Thomas Bello, professional staff; Tania Calhoun, committee counsel; James P. Dailey, professional staff; Paul Hunter, professional staff—these people were absolutely magnificent in the degree of expertise and professionalism they brought to us—Unice Lieberman, minority press secretary; Sara Jane MacKay, legislative correspondent; Don Meyer, press secretary; J. Paul Nicholas, professional staff; Frank Reilly, professional staff; Noelle Busk Ringel, our archivist. The clerk was Amber Sechrist, who came out of my office in a very professional and solid way. We also had Ronald Spear, professional staff, and Deborah Steward, GPO representative.

To all of these men and women, I pay tribute and extend my warmest thanks and gratitude for the work they have done. Tomorrow, off the presses will come "Y2K Aftermath—Crisis Averted, Final Committee Report." With the issuance of this report, the committee no longer exists. But as Secretary Hamre, Chairman Greenspan, and others have said, the benefits of the committee will live on over and above whatever benefits we had for averting the crisis.

I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

COMMENDING THE Y2K SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I am pleased to have been here as Senator BENNETT presented his report. He does deserve the credit he has rightly claimed, and his committee has done its work very well. I am most pleased to be able to congratulate him for a job well done.

GENERAL JOE RALSTON

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, later today I will join Senators IONUYE, WARNER and LEVIN in hosting a reception to bid farewell to Joe and Dede Ralston, as General Ralston concludes his second tour as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Happily, this event does not signify General Ralston's retirement, but his advancement to the position of Supreme Allied Commander Europe, in charge of all NATO forces, and all U.S. Forces stationed in Europe.

Joe Ralston has pursued a career of firsts, and breakthrough leadership success. His assignment as the first Air Force officer to command NATO is typical, and indicative, of his tremendous talents, and force of personality.

Remarkably, Joe Ralston has achieved success in several distinct military disciplines over his career, spanning more than 34 years.

Joe Ralston's military career is founded in his experience as a combat and command pilot during the Vietnam war. During two combat tours, in F-105 fighters and F-105 wild weasel jets, Joe honed his warfighting skills.

In the 1980's and early 1990's General Ralston played a key role in the technological revolution in air warfare. While many of these programs are still very sensitive, the direct impact of General Ralston's service in technology development and acquisition played a prominent role in our victories in Desert Storm and Kosovo.

Moving into more senior leadership positions, General Ralston contributed to reorganization of the Air Force during his tenure as commander of the 11th Air Force, Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff of Plans and Operations and Commander of the Air Combat Command.

Most recently, General Ralston served with great distinction as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Over these past four years, General Ralston has left an indelible mark on our nation's military, now, and for many years ahead.

An architect of the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review, General Ralston helped shape the force structure and training doctrine now followed by our Nation's Armed Forces.

The modernization plan presented in the QDR has moved us forward on recapitalizing our air and naval forces, and achieving Secretary Cohen's goal of \$60 billion for procurement for FY 2001.

These accomplishments proceeded during a period of overseas military activity across the globe unmatched since the end of the Second World War.

My colleagues here recognize that I have not always supported this administration's policies in the deployment of U.S. Forces overseas.

Regardless of how and why those deployments commenced, the performance and success of the U.S. military in these assignments reflects the leadership that General Ralston and all the Joint Chiefs have provided.

Looking ahead, to the continued opportunity for service General Ralston has accepted in moving to the Supreme Allied Commander job, this will be his toughest challenge.

General Ralston proceeds to Brussels following another great American Commander, General Wes Clark.

Having visited General Clark many times at his headquarters, and in the Balkans, there is no question that he provided the glue that held the alliance together in Bosnia and Kosovo.

General Clark did so facing limitations unlike those encountered by any previous alliance commander. He merits our accolades.

General Ralston succeeds General Clark in an era where our allies must decide the nature of their military forces in the future, and the role of Europe, compared to NATO, in future security matters.

To me, there is no officer in the U.S. military today better prepared, by experience or temperament, to accept this challenge.

While that is a strong claim, I make this comment to the Senate based on my personal experience in watching General Ralston command.

Catherine and I have known Joe and Dede Ralston since 1992, when they arrived in Alaska to take on the responsibility of commanding all U.S. military forces in my State.

Joe immediately established himself as not just a military commander, but a real Alaskan.

In fact, as Joe and Dede saw the close of this assignment as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs approaching, they made plans to establish a home in Alaska—coming home as neighbors.

While disappointed that we cannot look forward to their imminent return to Alaska, I join all Alaskans in congratulating General Ralston on the successful conclusion of his tenure as